

1 1. In an audio/visual (AV) system, a method for efficient navigation of AV
2 options available to a user of the AV system, comprising:

3 a) entering an interactive mode of a graphical user interface (GUI), displayed
4 on a display apparatus of the AV system, in response to a user of the AV system
5 activating a selection mechanism of a navigation and selection device of the AV
6 system;

7 b) displaying a status bar in a prominent position of the GUI, wherein the
8 status bar has a plurality of last-selected AV options displayed as last-selected items
9 within a corresponding plurality of fields, with one or more fields of the plurality of
10 fields being navigable fields;

11 c) laterally moving a cursor of the GUI across the plurality of fields of the
12 status bar to place the cursor over a field of the plurality of fields and thus highlight
13 the field in response to the user laterally moving a scrolling mechanism of the
14 navigation and selection device;

15 d) displaying a navigable list of the highlighted field having a plurality of items
16 corresponding to a plurality of related AV options, if the highlighted field is a
17 navigable field of the one or more navigable fields of the plurality of fields of the
18 status bar;

19 e) scrolling the plurality of items of the navigable list through the highlighted
20 field to cause a desired item of the plurality of items to be highlighted within the
21 highlighted field in response to the user scrolling the scrolling mechanism of the
22 navigation and selection device;

23 f) repeating c) – e) as needed for other fields of the plurality of fields of the
24 status bar to place a plurality of currently chosen AV options within the plurality of
25 fields of the status bar;

26 g) selecting the plurality of currently chosen AV options highlighted within the
27 fields of the status bar by activating the selection mechanism of the navigation and
28 selection device; and

29 h) in response to selecting, controlling an AV device of the AV system in
30 accordance with the currently chosen AV options that were selected.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of related AV options are
2 provided by downloading the plurality of related AV options from a database of the
3 AV system.

4
5 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of related AV options comprise
6 one or more hyperlinks to one or more locations on the Internet.

7
8 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the navigation and selection device performs
9 controlling the AV device.

10
11 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
12 if a time-out mechanism of the interactive mode has not been activated,
13 repeating c) – g).

14
15 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
16 if a time-out mechanism of the interactive mode has been activated, causing
17 the GUI to not be displayed on the display apparatus of the AV system.

18
19 7. The method of claim 1, wherein prior to entering the interactive mode, further
20 comprising:

21 entering an information display mode of the GUI in response to the user
22 moving the scrolling mechanism without activating the selection mechanism of the
23 navigation and selection device; and

24 displaying the status bar within a non-prominent position of the GUI, with the
25 plurality of fields of the status bar containing a plurality of last-selected AV options.

26
27 8. The method of claim 7, wherein subsequently entering the interactive mode of
28 the GUI from the information display mode causes the status bar of the GUI to move
29 from the non-prominent position to a prominent position of the GUI.

30
31 9. The method of claim 7, wherein if a time-out mechanism of the information
32 display mode is activated, the GUI is no longer displayed on the display apparatus.

1
2 10. In an audio/visual (AV) system, a method for efficient navigation of AV
3 options available to a user of the AV system, comprising:

4 a) entering an interactive mode of a graphical user interface (GUI), that is
5 displayed on a display apparatus of the AV system, in response to a user of the AV
6 system activating a selection mechanism of a navigation and selection device of the
7 AV system;

8 b) displaying a status bar in a prominent position of the GUI, wherein the
9 status bar has a plurality of last-selected AV options displayed as last-selected items
10 within a corresponding plurality of fields, with one or more fields of the plurality of
11 fields being navigable fields and with the GUI having a cursor that highlights one
12 field of the plurality of fields at a given time;

13 c) if the cursor of the GUI is highlighting a navigable field of the one or more
14 navigable fields, displaying a list of items, corresponding to a plurality of related AV
15 options, of the navigable field;

16 d) if scrolling movement of the scrolling mechanism within the highlighted
17 navigable field is detected, scrolling the list of items through the highlighted
18 navigable field in accordance with the scrolling movement;

19 e) if lateral movement of the scrolling mechanism is detected, laterally moving
20 the cursor across the plurality of fields of the status bar in accordance with the lateral
21 movement;

22 f) repeating c) – e) for any field of the plurality of fields of the status bar as
23 needed to place a plurality of currently chosen AV options within the plurality of fields
24 of the status bar; and

25 g) if the selection mechanism of the navigation and selection device of the AV
26 system is activated, controlling an AV device of the AV system in accordance with
27 the currently chosen AV options that were selected.

28
29 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the plurality of related AV options are
30 provided by downloading the plurality of related AV options from a database of the
31 AV system.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the plurality of related AV options comprise
2 one or more hyperlinks to one or more locations on the Internet.

3
4 13. The method of claim 10, wherein the navigation and selection device
5 performs controlling the AV device.

6
7 14. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
8 if a time-out mechanism of the interactive mode has not been activated,
9 repeating c) – g).

10
11 15. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
12 if a time-out mechanism of the interactive mode has been activated, causing
13 the GUI to not be displayed on the display apparatus of the AV system.

14
15 16. The method of claim 10, wherein prior to entering the interactive mode,
16 further comprising:
17 if movement of the scrolling mechanism is detected and the selection
18 mechanism has not been activated, entering an information display mode of the
19 GUI; and
20 displaying the status bar within a non-prominent position of the GUI, with the
21 plurality of fields of the status bar containing a plurality of last-selected AV options.

22
23 17. The method of claim 10, wherein subsequently entering the interactive mode
24 of the GUI from the information display mode causes the status bar of the GUI to
25 move from the non-prominent position to a prominent position of the GUI.

26
27 18. The method of claim 10, wherein if a time-out mechanism of the information
28 display mode is activated, the GUI is no longer displayed on the display apparatus of
29 the AV system.

1 19. A computer readable medium containing executable instructions which, when
2 executed in a processing system, causes the system to provide for efficient
3 navigation of available audio/visual (AV) options in an AV system, comprising:

4 a) instructions for entering an interactive mode of a graphical user interface
5 (GUI), that is displayed on a display apparatus of the AV system, in response to a
6 user of the AV system activating a selection mechanism of a navigation and
7 selection device of the AV system;

8 b) instructions for displaying a status bar in a prominent position of the GUI,
9 wherein the status bar has a plurality of last-selected AV options displayed as last-
10 selected items within a corresponding plurality of fields, with one or more fields of
11 the plurality of fields being navigable fields and with the GUI having a cursor that
12 highlights one field of the plurality of fields at a given time;

13 c) if the cursor of the GUI is highlighting a navigable field of the one or more
14 navigable fields, instructions for displaying a list of items, corresponding to a plurality
15 of related AV options, of the navigable field;

16 d) if scrolling movement of the scrolling mechanism within the highlighted
17 navigable field is detected, instructions for scrolling the list of items through the
18 highlighted navigable field in accordance with the scrolling movement;

19 e) if lateral movement of the scrolling mechanism is detected, instructions for
20 laterally moving the cursor across the plurality of fields of the status bar in
21 accordance with the lateral movement;

22 f) repeating c) – e) for any field of the plurality of fields of the status bar as
23 needed to place a plurality of currently chosen AV options within the plurality of fields
24 of the status bar;

25 g) if the selection mechanism of the navigation and selection device of the AV
26 system is activated, instructions for controlling an AV device of the AV system in
27 accordance with the currently chosen AV options that were selected.

28
29 20. The medium of claim 19, wherein the plurality of related AV options are
30 provided by instructions for downloading the plurality of related AV options from a
31 database of the AV system.

1 21. The medium of claim 19, wherein the plurality of related AV options comprise
2 one or more hyperlinks to one or more locations on the Internet.

3
4 22. The medium of claim 19, wherein the navigation and selection device
5 performs controlling the AV device.

6
7 23. The medium of claim 19, further comprising:
8 if a time-out mechanism of the interactive mode has not been activated,
9 repeating c) – g).

10
11 24. The medium of claim 19, further comprising:
12 if a time-out mechanism of the interactive mode has been activated,
13 instructions for causing the GUI to not be displayed on the display apparatus of the
14 AV system.

15
16 25. The medium of claim 19, wherein prior to entering the interactive mode,
17 further comprising:

18 if movement of the scrolling mechanism is detected and the selection
19 mechanism has not been activated, instructions for entering an information display
20 mode of the GUI; and

21 instructions for displaying the status bar within a non-prominent position of the
22 GUI, with the plurality of fields of the status bar containing a plurality of last-selected
23 AV options.

24
25 26. The medium of claim 25, wherein subsequently executing instructions for
26 entering the interactive mode of the GUI from the information display mode causes
27 the status bar of the GUI to move from the non-prominent position to a prominent
28 position of the GUI.

29
30 27. The medium of claim 25, wherein if a time-out mechanism of the information
31 display mode is activated, instructions for no longer displaying the GUI on the
32 display apparatus of the AV system.

1
2 28. A graphical user interface (GUI), dynamically displayed on a display
3 apparatus of an audio/visual (AV) system, that is controlled by a navigation and
4 selection device of the AV system to provide efficient navigation of AV options
5 available to a user of the AV system, comprising:

6 a status bar of the GUI having a plurality of fields, with one or more fields of
7 the plurality of fields being navigable fields and with each navigable field having AV
8 options that are displayed when highlighted;

9 a cursor of the GUI capable of highlighting any field of the plurality of fields of
10 the status bar;

11 an interactive mode of the GUI;

12 wherein in response to a user of the AV system activating a selection
13 mechanism of the navigation and selection device, the interactive mode of the GUI
14 is entered and the GUI is displayed on the display apparatus with the status bar of
15 the GUI being displayed in a prominent location of the GUI and initially having a
16 plurality of last-selected AV options displayed as items within the corresponding
17 plurality of fields of the status bar;

18 wherein if a field of the plurality of fields is a navigable field a plurality of AV
19 options arranged as a plurality of items within a list of the navigable field is displayed
20 on the display apparatus and the plurality of items within the list of the navigable field
21 can be navigated by the user moving the scrolling wheel in a scrolling movement to
22 cause the plurality of items to scroll through the field of the status bar;

23 wherein by moving the scrolling mechanism in a lateral movement, the user
24 can determine which field of the plurality of fields of the status bar will be highlighted
25 and thus available for navigating if navigable; and

26 wherein in response to the user activating a selection mechanism of the
27 navigation and selection device, an AV device of the AV system is controlled by the
28 navigation and selection device in accordance with the plurality of AV options
29 currently within the plurality of fields of the status at the time the selection
30 mechanism is activated.

31

1 29. The GUI of claim 28, wherein the GUI is not displayed on the display
2 apparatus if a time-out mechanism of the interactive mode is activated.

3
4 30. The GUI of claim 28, further comprising:

5 an information display mode of the GUI that is entered prior to entering the
6 interactive mode in response to the user moving the scrolling mechanism without
7 activating the selection mechanism of the navigation and selection device, in which
8 the status bar is displayed within a non-prominent position of the GUI, with the
9 plurality of fields of the status bar containing a plurality of last-selected AV options.

10
11 31. The GUI of claim 30, wherein subsequently entering the interactive mode of
12 the GUI from the information display mode causes the status bar of the GUI to move
13 from the non-prominent position to a prominent position of the GUI.

14
15 32. The GUI of claim 30, wherein if a time-out mechanism of the information
16 display mode is activated, the GUI is no longer displayed on the display apparatus.

17
18 33. An audio/visual (AV) system that provides for efficient navigation of AV
19 options available to a user of the AV system, comprising:

20 a plurality of AV options stored in a database of the AV system;

21 a server of the AV system that can access the plurality of AV options stored in
22 the database;

23 a navigation and selection device having a scrolling mechanism integral to the
24 navigation and selection device that is capable of lateral movement and scrolling
25 movement, a selection mechanism and a management program;

26 a display apparatus;

27 one or more AV devices controllable by the navigation and selection device in
28 accordance with the management program;

29 a graphical user interface (GUI), controlled by a user of the AV system
30 through the navigation and selection device in accordance with the management
31 program and displayed on the display apparatus when activated in an interactive
32 mode,

1 wherein while in the interactive mode and in response to the user moving the
2 scrolling mechanism of the navigation and selection device, one or more navigable
3 fields of a status bar arranged as related items in lists capable of being navigated
4 are selectively displayed when highlighted by a cursor of the GUI and may be
5 navigated to select a set of desired AV options from a plurality of available AV
6 options, and

7 wherein selection of the set of desired AV options causes an AV device
8 indicated by the set of desired AV options to be controlled by the navigation and
9 selection device in accordance with the desired AV options.

10
11 34. The system of claim 33, wherein the navigation and selection device is a
12 remote commander and the scrolling mechanism is a scroll cylinder.

13
14 35. The system of claim 33, wherein the GUI further comprises:

15 an information display mode that is entered in response to the user moving
16 the scrolling mechanism without activating the selection mechanism of the scrolling
17 mechanism, wherein upon entry into the information display mode the status bar is
18 displayed in a non-prominent position of the GUI.

19
20 36. The system of 35, wherein upon entry into the interactive mode from the
21 information display mode the status bar moves from the non-prominent position to a
22 prominent position of the GUI.

23
24 37. The system of claim 33, wherein a portion of the plurality of AV options are
25 available over the Internet and the AV system further comprises:

26 a remote database on which the portion of the plurality of AV options are
27 stored; and

28 a remote server which in response to a request from the server over the
29 Internet downloads the portion of the plurality of AV options from the remote
30 database and provides them over the Internet to the server.

1 38. A navigation and selection device suitable for use with an audio/visual (AV)
2 system, comprising:

3 a housing;

4 a scrolling mechanism that is integral to the housing of the navigation and
5 selection device; and

6 a selection mechanism;

7 wherein the scrolling mechanism is capable of lateral movement and scrolling
8 movement and allows a user of the navigation and selection device to navigate one
9 or more navigable lists corresponding to one or more fields of a status bar of a
10 graphical user interface (GUI) displayed on a display apparatus of the AV system
11 during an interactive mode of the GUI.

12
13 39. The device of claim 38, wherein the scrolling mechanism is a scrolling
14 cylinder.

15
16 40. The device of claim 38, wherein each navigable list of the one or more
17 navigable lists has a plurality of related AV options arranged as a plurality of items
18 and an item of the plurality of items is selected by the user employing the lateral
19 movement of scrolling mechanism to place a cursor of the GUI over a field of the
20 one or more fields corresponding to the navigable list, thereby highlighting the field
21 and causing the navigable list corresponding to the highlighted field to be displayed
22 on the GUI, the user employing the scrolling movement of the scrolling mechanism
23 to scroll through the plurality of items of the list to place the item within the
24 highlighted field, and engaging the selection mechanism of the scrolling mechanism
25 to select the item.